

November 25, 1958

Dear Kees:

Your letter validates two compelling arguments against ex-Calvinism: (a) that you should even think of any sense of guilt, and (b) that this should compound the deprivation of your friends in not hearing from you, whenever it suits both your inclination and your convenience.

In the circumstances I appreciate even more your letter of the 20th; but please don't let that be an argument for magnifying any other postponements. In any case, I hope we will be seeing one another face to face often enough that letters need be but formalities. [And don't exaggerate the ~~2~~ 'great and good things anticipated': this in itself is one of them!]

Another solution would, of course be the confessional: I can see a great flood of correspondence from your pen after each absolution!

All this theological humor aside, we thank you very much for the empathy, in which we are proud and happy to share.

Yours, as ever,

Joshua Lederberg

P.S. Could you get excited enough about Areo- and Venero-microbiology to join in a closed, informal discussion of ways and means. There is a possibility of some such in the San Francisco area some time this spring under NASA auspices; if this doesn't come off, it might be even better if we organized one on our own.